



Commonwealth of Kentucky Labor Cabinet

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Kentucky's Supervisor of Apprenticeship to Lead National Organization

Labor Cabinet's Michael Donta elected president of NASTAD

FRANKFORT, Ky. (June 8, 2015) – The Kentucky Labor Cabinet's deputy commissioner of Workplace Standards, Michael Donta, has been chosen as president of the National Association of State and Territorial Apprenticeship Directors (NASTAD).

NASTAD represents 27 independent states and territories that manage and administer Registered Apprenticeship programs throughout the U.S.

Under Donta's leadership, Registered Apprenticeship in Kentucky has grown to include occupations beyond the traditional construction trades model of apprenticeship.

The Tech Ready Apprentices for Careers in Kentucky (TRACK) program has been implemented statewide in advanced manufacturing and construction – and will soon be developed throughout the health sciences, IT, and business services occupations.

The program allows high school students to have a career pathway into numerous apprenticeable occupations.

Kentucky Labor Secretary Larry L. Roberts congratulated Donta on this achievement.

"Registered Apprenticeship has made tremendous strides under the leadership of Mike Donta as the Supervisor of Apprenticeship in the Commonwealth," said Secretary

Roberts. “He is the perfect choice for this national position, and to have Kentucky’s head of apprenticeship also leading the national effort is a testament to the successful growth of our own highly skilled workforce.”

Donta will continue his current duties with the Kentucky Labor Cabinet, where, in addition to supervisor of apprenticeship, he also serves as deputy commissioner of Workplace Standards and director of the Occupational Safety and Health Compliance Division.

“It’s an exciting time to be involved in the apprenticeship world,” said Donta. “Our employers across the country are recognizing this value-added model of training that has been highly successful all over the world. The issuance of a nationally recognized credential is a life-long career asset to an apprenticeship completer. I’m honored to be selected by my colleagues to lead our organization during this time of renewed interest in Registered Apprenticeship.”

NASTAD works in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship. Member states and territories are each recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Labor as the official apprenticeship agency for federal apprenticeship purposes, and serve as the registration agency for apprentices and programs.

“Mike Donta brings years of experience and passion to his role as the new president of NASTAD,” said Eric Seleznow, deputy assistant secretary for employment and training at the U.S. Department of Labor. “We applaud his appointment and look forward to partnering with Mike and NASTAD to raise the profile of apprenticeship in new industries and expand the number of apprenticeship opportunities available to U.S. workers.”

For more information, visit www.nastad.us.

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The Kentucky Labor Cabinet’s primary responsibility is to ensure that divisions and offices falling under the auspices of the Cabinet work within the jurisdiction of Kentucky labor law to ensure equitable and fair treatment of the Commonwealth’s nearly 1.9 million wage-earning employees. The Cabinet, according to regulation, has the duties, responsibilities, power, and authority relating to labor, wage and hour issues, occupational safety and health of employees, child labor, apprenticeship, workers’ compensation insurance, and all other matters under the jurisdiction of the Labor Cabinet. For more information, visit www.labor.ky.gov.

